

Appl. No.10/765,482
Amdt. Dated: January 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 10/19/2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Original): A method for treating trabecular meshwork regions of a human eye, comprising the steps of:

(a) localizing a volume of particles carrying a selected chromophore within spaces of the meshwork;

(b) irradiating the particles with a beam of photonic energy having a wavelength, power, and pulse duration that is absorbed by the selected chromophore;

(c) wherein the chromophore comprises gold within the surface layer of said particles thereby applying energy to the irradiated region of the meshwork.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step causes a thermal effect within the irradiated region of the meshwork.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step causes a cavitation effect within the irradiated region of the meshwork.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 3 wherein said cavitation delivers mechanical energy to the a media within the meshwork.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than about 500nm.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the particles have an average diameter less than about 200nm.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of Claim 1 wherein the irradiating step utilizes a wavelength domain ranging from about 380 nm to 820 nm.

Appl. No.10/765,482
Amdt. Dated: January 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 10/19/2004

Claim 8 (Original): A system for delivering energy to trabecular meshwork regions of the human eye, comprising:

A volume of particles having an average cross-section of less than about 500 nm;

A coherent light source providing a selected wavelength in a range between about 380 nm and 820 nm; and

wherein the particles have a gold surface.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The system of Claim 8 wherein the particles have an average diameter less than ~~that~~ about 500nm.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim 8 wherein the particles have an average diameter of less than ~~that~~ about 100 nm.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim ~~12-8~~ wherein the particles comprise a gold particle.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The system according to Claim ~~12-8~~ wherein the particles comprise a gold shell.

Claim 13 (Original): A method for applying energy to a patient's trabecular meshwork, comprising the steps of:

(a) non-invasively irradiating the meshwork region with coherent light pulses having a wavelength between 380 nm and 820 nm;

(b) wherein the power level, pulse, and pulse interval are selected to cause microimplantables with a gold surface to absorb energy and thereby apply energy to surrounding media.

Appl. No.10/765,482
Amdt. Dated: January 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of 10/19/2004

Claim 14 (Original): The method of Claim 13 wherein said irradiating step causes thermal effects in said media.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of Claim 13 wherein said irradiating step cause acoustic effects in said media.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to Claim 13 wherein said irradiating step does not ablate cells of the meshwork.

Claim 17 (New): The system according to claim 8 wherein said particles are not absorbed into phagocytic cells.